

MELITA & LODGE,

No. 295, F. & A. M.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.



Celebration of the Centennial Anniversary

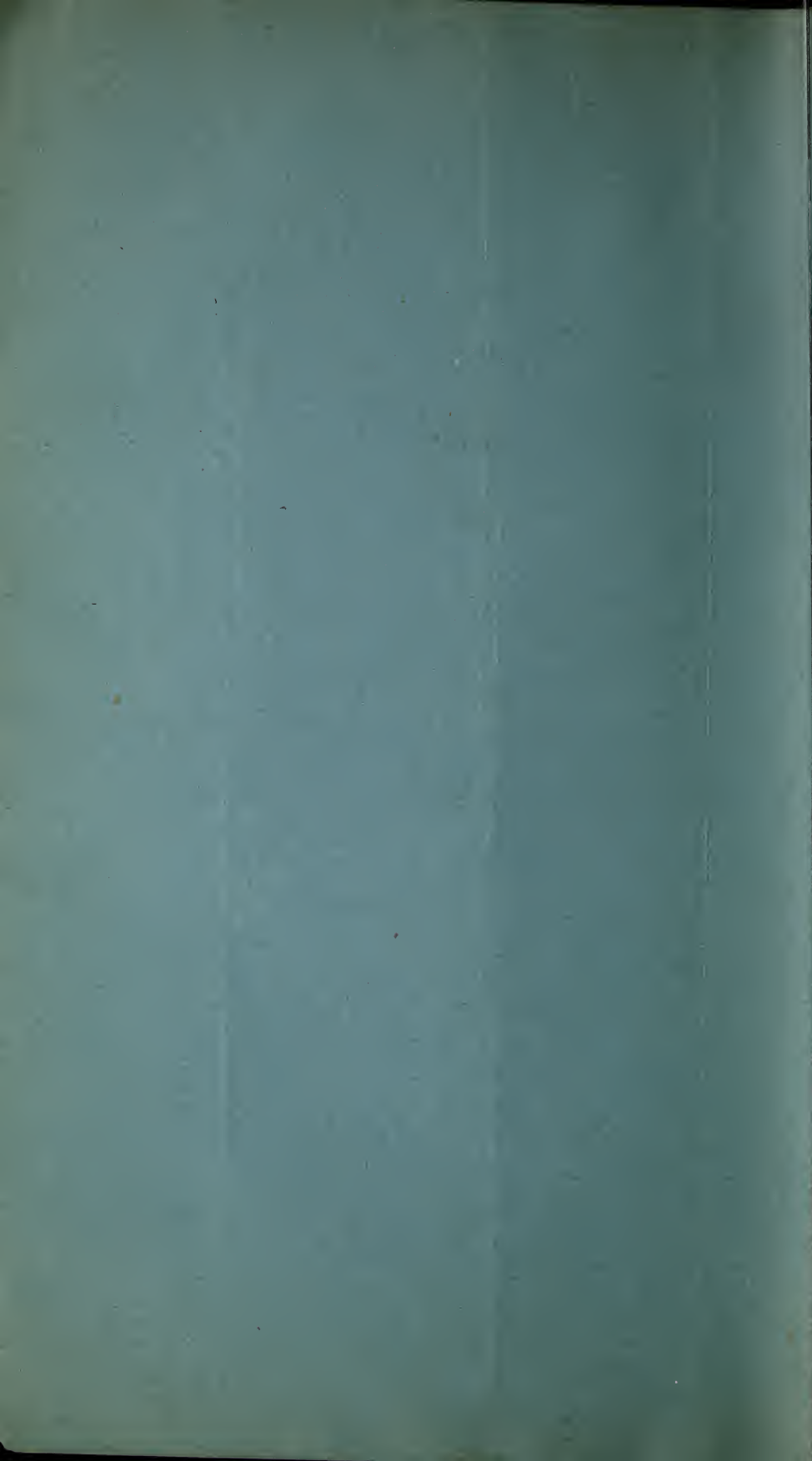
OF THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF

"The Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free
and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, and Masonic
Jurisdiction thereunto belonging."

MASONIC TEMPLE PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 27, 1886.

PRINTED FOR MELITA LODGE BY A. C. BRYSON.

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Masonry introduced into Pennsylvania by Daniel
Coxe in - - - - - 1730

Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania formed
under the "Ancients" in - - - - - 1764

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania became Sovereign
and Independent, September 25th, - - - - 1786

CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

BY MELITA LODGE, No. 295, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS,
IN CORINTHIAN HALL,

MASONIC TEMPLE, PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 27TH, 1886.

Present:

Bro. FRANK M. DEALY, W. M.
Bro. JOHN A. DUNCAN, S. W.
Bro. EDWARD E. JOACHIM, J. W.
Bro. WILLIAM D. GARDNER, Treasurer.
Bro. DENNIS F. DEALY, Secretary.

Past Masters:—Henry L. Sinexon, Charles E. Meyer, Absalom Taylor,
Dennis F. Dealy, Robert B. Salter, Samuel M. Clements, James I.
Wright, Jacob K. Thompson, John H. Dye, Joseph Welch, Thomas
A. Redding, William R. Hertz.

Members:

Julius B. Allen,	Eldridge Claiborne,	John Fredericks,
James D. Alburger,	John W. Coleman,	John Fullerton,
Thos. D. G. Alexander,	William F. Cooper,	John D. Gaulbert,
John C. Atkinson,	Edward T. Crane,	Fred. Gegenheimer,
Daniel Baird, jr.,	Thomas Culp,	Charles Hale,
John A. Beam,	Andrew J. De Camp,	Isaiah Hall,
John W. Beebe,	John W. Dick,	Edwin T. Harvie,
Joseph Benison,	William A. Duff,	Henry C. Hamer,
Charles H. Black,	William H. Durham,	George J. Harris,
James Borer,	John Evans,	Edwin Harris,
George W. Briggs,	Walter Faries,	Henry Heins,
W. Alex. Bulkley,	Harry H. Fenimore,	Henry R. Henry,
G. M. Burnham,	Frank Gihon,	Alvin Hilyard,

Robert Holly,	Charles R. Miller,	Archie L. Sheldon,
William P. Howell,	Edward L. Mintzer, jr.	George Shibe,
George H. Hulings,	Peter H. Morad,	Frank Sidney,
John C. Hunterson,	James P. Morrison,	James W. Simmons,
Hugh Hawkins,	Wm. T. McAlees,	George Simpson,
Franklin B. Jaggard,	William McCarter,	John J. Stadiger,
Noah James,	Edgar S. McDowell,	Laffya W. Stewart,
Kenneth Jewell,	William J. McGirr,	Hiram Stimmel,
Charles Jones,	Thomas McManemy,	J. Monroe Stukey,
Isaac Keller,	Albert A. Norris,	William T. Tripple,
Marcus Kepner,	Samuel W. Norris,	James M. Tripple, jr.
James Kirkpatrick,	James Odgers,	George B. Thomson,
Thomas P. King,	Charles O'Neill,	Frank Thurwanger,
Willard J. King,	Anthony Penrose,	Richard S. Vaughan,
John H. Kinsley,	David H. Presker,	William Walker,
George E. Kimmey,	Alfred B. Richards,	Samuel Wallace,
Jacob Knorr,	John Riddell,	George W. Wallace,
Samuel E. Kister,	Matthew Robinson,	Richard D. Wallace,
George E. Long,	William T. Rockett,	Henry Wittman,
Joseph T. Loane,	Thomas T. Rockett,	Harry E. Winner,
Frederick Mann, jr.	William V. Runkle,	Herman Wolters.
George Michtle,	George Y. Schock,	

Visiting Brethren:

	Lodge No.		Lodge No.
Alfred S. Cox, Lewis W.		Matthew S. Olley, Gotlieb	
Bitting, - - - -	2	Ketterer, Wm. J. Kelly,	
David R. Burns, - -	3	Charles A. White, Wm.	
John M. Kern, William J.		A. Brown, Thos. M. Town-	
Norris, Chas. Mortimore,		send, Wm. Shinn, Charles	
Andrew C. Patterson,	19	W. Wedig, - - -	59
Z. De Forest Ely, - -	51	Jacob Beck, Geo. W. Town-	
Edward H. Bell, - - -	52	send, Franklin A. Smith,	67

Lodge No.		Lodge No.	
Rayner Raynor, James W.		Chas. E. Kunkle, Chas. Sum-	
Baird, Stephen H. Markee,		merfield, Samuel Andrews,	385
Wm. Raynor, - - -	114	William P. Short, William	
Thomas Bennett, Wm. H.		A. Woodcock, John H.	
Ridings, - - - -	115	Sutterle, - - - -	386
B. Frank Duffield, James		Charles P. Garde, - -	402
Bleloch, - - - -	126	John Gries, James C. Davies,	
John L. Young, - - -	130	Geo. Koehler, Jos. Corney,	419
Alexander Feel, Charles W.		Frederick H. Starling, Chas.	
Nolen, - - - -	134	J. Naylor, - - - -	432
Joseph H. Edwards, William		Jacob H. Beck, Samuel J.	
R. Frazier, - - -	155	Dickey, - - - -	436
Thomas M. Stephens, - -	158	Samuel Campbell, - -	441
Joseph G. Culm, Martin F.		Julian P. Wright, - -	444
Flaherty, Wm. H. Royer,	186	Thos. Randall, - - -	449
Wm. B. McMenamin, Wm.		Isaac C. Underdown, - -	456
H. Dougherty, - - -	187	Harmon Johnson, Charles K.	
John S. Firth, - - -	211	Sorber, - - - -	470
John P. Sipler, James B.		Alex. Remick, - - -	481
Wylie, - - - -	246	Thomas A. Briggs, - -	493
Charles H. Heiligmann, -	271	Aaron J. Sanson, Jr., -	506
William H. Miller, - -	273	Henry Smidheiser, John H.	
William B. Joslyn, - -	274	Kite, William Wine, -	519
John M. Crean, Alex. Smith,		Arthur A. Muth, - - -	528
James Taitt, - - -	289	Charles S. Teal, - - -	529
Benjamin P. Wilson, - -	292	Oliver B. Moss, - - -	543
John F. Mann, - - -	359	Sylvanus J. Millette, No. 15,	
Wm. Allison Cochran, -	368	Rob't Hawkey, No. 28, and	
Jesse C. Parry, Jos. S. Worth,	380	Andrew McAlees, No. 32, N. J.	

After the Lodge had been opened it was honored by the following distinguished visitors:

E. COPPÉE MITCHELL, ESQ. *Right Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania.*

AUGUSTUS R. HALL, P. M. of Lodge No. 72, *Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.*

JAMES S. BARBER, P. M. of Lodge No. 402, *M. E. Grand Scribe of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.*

EDWARD MASSON, P. M. of Lodge No. 155, *Grand Marshal of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania.*

M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ, P. M. of Lodge No. 126, *Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania.*

The ceremonies began with music by Hassler's orchestra.

The Brethren then all united in singing the anthem:

Unto Thee, great God, belong
Mystic rites and sacred song;
Lowly bending at Thy shrine,
We hail Thy majesty divine.

Glorious Architect above,
Source of light and source of love,
Here Thy light and love prevail;
Hail! Almighty Master, hail!

Worshipful Master, Brother FRANK M. DEALY, then said:

BRETHREN:

We have assembled here to-night in accordance with the suggestion offered by the Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother E. COPPÉE MITCHELL: that all Lodges in this Jurisdiction celebrate, in some fitting manner, the Centennial Anniversary of the Sovereignty and Independence of the Grand Lodge of the State of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction thereunto belonging.

And it is my proud privilege, as Worshipful Master of this Lodge, to say that any suggestions from the Grand Lodge, or from the Right Worshipful Grand Master, *always* meet with a hearty response from Melita Lodge.

Active and full of energy, Melita Lodge always takes great pleasure in trying to spread Masonic light and knowledge, and that this fact is recognized by the fraternity in general is evinced by the large attendance here this evening, not only by the large number of our own members, but of visiting brethren, to many of whom Melita Lodge has been known only by reputation.

As I know that you are all impatient to hear the distinguished brethren who are to follow me, and who are to entertain you this evening, and in order that the mental feast may be spread at once, I will bring my remarks to a close by saying, that in Melita Lodge we try to live up to all the teachings of Masonry, one of which is to always have a kind word and a smile of recognition for every true and worthy brother, and in accordance with which I hereby extend, in behalf of Melita Lodge, its officers and members, a cordial welcome to all our visiting brethren and invite them, one and all, to call on us again.

Music by the Orchestra.

The Worshipful Master then introduced Past Master Brother CHARLES E. MEYER, who delivered the following address:

A CENTURY WITH THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Right Worshipful Grand Master:

Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren:

On the twenty-fifth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six, the Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania assembled in Grand Lodge in the little Lodge room in Videll's alley, a small alley running west from Second street below Chestnut street, in the city of Philadelphia, then and there to, take action on a resolution* offered at the Quarterly Communication in March preceding, whether the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania "should or should not sever its connection with the parent Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons according to the old institutions of England," with which it had then been connected some twenty-two years.

The action about to be taken was not the result of undue haste, nor was it approached without considerable regret. For a period of six months the several Lodges within the jurisdiction had been notified and the matter had been under consideration. Accordingly, on the day mentioned, the Grand Lodge was assembled to act upon the same. The Grand Master, William Adcock (who had filled that office for four

*The resolution was as follows: "On motion and seconded, it was ordered that a circular letter be written to the several Lodges under this jurisdiction generally, informing them that it is the wish of the Grand Lodge to establish themselves as a Grand Lodge, independent of Great Britain or any other authority, and that it is intended to take up the matter at the Quarterly Communication in September next, and requesting their attendance at that time, either by their proper officers or by deputation in writing."—Proceedings of Grand Lodge, March 27, 1785. Reprint Library Committee.

years), was at his station in the Grand East, ably assisted by his Deputy, Alexander Rutherford, while in the West, to note the setting of the sun, was Jonathan Bayard Smith, and in the South, to mark the meridian of the sun (the greater of the lesser lights of Freemasonry), was Joseph Dean.

The orders of the Grand Master were communicated to the Wardens by William Delany and Jacob S. Howell, Grand Deacons. Gavin Hamilton was Grand Treasurer, and Assheton Humphreys was Grand Secretary.

Lodges Nos. 2, 3, 5, 9, 12, 14, 18, 22, 33, 38, 44, 45, twelve in number,* were represented by their officers or proxies, while as visitors there were Thomas Proctor and M. Cohen, of No. 2, and Ed. Fox and J. Senice, of No. 9. After the formal opening of the Grand Lodge it was unanimously resolved, "That it is improper that this Grand Lodge should continue under any foreign jurisdiction." It was further unanimously resolved, "That this Grand Lodge is, and ought to be, a Grand Lodge independent of Great Britain or any other authority whatever; and that they are not under any ties to any other Grand Lodge except those of brotherly love and affection, which they will always be happy to cultivate and preserve with all Lodges throughout the globe."

This declaration having been read at the Secretary's table, the same was ordered to be signed by the Right Worshipful Grand Master and the Grand Secretary, sealed with the seal of the Grand Lodge and entered on the minutes; after which "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, acting by virtue of a warrant from the Grand Lodge of England, was closed forever."

*Of these Lodges Nos. 2, 3, 9, were located in Philadelphia; Nos. 5, 14, 18, 33, 44, were located in Delaware; Nos. 12, 22, 45, were located in Pennsylvania; while No. 38 was located in Charleston, South Carolina. No. 25 was not represented until after the Provincial Grand Lodge had closed, but it was present at the Grand Convention immediately following. Nos. 2, 3 and 9 of Philadelphia, No. 22 at Sunbury, No. 25 at Bristol, and No. 45 at Pittsburgh, are still in existence.

SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT.

Immediately thereafter the foregoing twelve Lodges, with the addition of Lodge No. 25, thirteen in all, met in Grand Convention, with William Adcock as chairman, when the following business was transacted as recorded in the minutes of the Grand Lodge, from which I read:*

“At a Grand Convention of thirteen different Lodges, working by virtue of warrants from the late Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, with full power from their constituents to decide upon the question, Whether the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania should establish themselves as a Grand Lodge independent of Great Britain or any other authority, and with the concurrence of other Lodges, signified by letter, It was unanimously

Resolved, That the Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, lately held under the authority of the Grand Lodge of England, will, and do now, form themselves into a Grand Lodge, to be called the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and Masonic jurisdiction thereunto belonging, to be held in Philadelphia; and that the late Grand Officers continue to be the Grand Officers of Pennsylvania, invested with all the powers, jurisdictions, pre-eminence, and authority thereunto belonging, till the usual time of the next election; and that the Grand Lodge and the particular Lodges govern themselves by the Rules and Regulations heretofore established, till other Rules and Regulations shall be adopted.

JOS. FEW.
JOS. WHITEHEAD.
CHAS. YOUNG.
WM. DELANY.
JOHN STAFFORD.
GAVIN HAMILTON, rep. No. 12.
JACOB S. HOWELL.
JOSEPH CAPELLA.
JOHN VANNOST, rep. No. 12.
FREDERICK ANTES.
SAMUEL FREEMAN, No. 44.
EDWARD FOX.
WILL ADCOCK, Chairman.
J. B. SMITH.
ALEX. RUTHERFORD.
THOS. DUNCAN SMITH.
PRAISE WADMAN.
JOS. DEAN.
FRANCIS ROBINSON.
CHAS. TATHAM, No. 18.
DANL. CUMMINS.
JOHN CLARK, for No. 25.
JNO. STOCKTON.
ASSHETON HUMPHREYS.
J. B. SMITH, representing 45.”

* Reprint of Early Minutes of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Published by Library Committee.

Thus was formed the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, whose one hundredth anniversary we are met at this time to celebrate.

But from whence did these our Brethren, who formed the Grand Lodge, get their Masonic light and life?

EARLY MASONRY.

It is not my intention to tell you of the time and place—when and where—Freemasonry originated, for that would be an impossibility. *No* one can tell you. Some may, by beautiful words and theories in their own way, and from an over-excited brain, build you seemingly strong and stately fabrics in the shadows of the past, and whose words may have that certain amount of plausibility about them by which men are lead to agree with them. But when they come to the presentation of facts, the *actual* facts, they fail, and their theories, like their fabrics, leave not a trace behind them. It *is* a *fact*, however, that the old minster at York, the abbey at Killwinning, and elsewhere in Old England and Scotland testify by the silent marks left by the builders of old on the perfect stones their knowledge of the Masons' Craft. *They are* grand monuments of the Master and his workmen. There is scarcely an old abbey, or minster, or auld kirk, but what has connected with its building the legend of Masonry. In this cathedral, or minster, it is that of the beautiful window, fashioned almost as it were by fairy hands; in that chapel it twines round the beautiful wreathing and tracery of the "Prentice's pillar" of Roslyn; but everywhere the Master and "Prentice" story is the same. Brothers Hughan, Gould, Lyon, Whytehead and others of England's Masonic historians have, by their researches, thrown a vast amount of light on the history of them. They present facts which can be entirely depended on.

FIRST GRAND LODGE "MODERNS."

The Operative Masons, who annually were used to meet in York, chose as Grand Master Sir Christopher Wren, the

world's great architect, and we learn that he served the Craft faithfully and satisfactorily until old age came and with it its accompanying infirmities, when complaints arose that the Craft of Masonry was neglected, so much so that in 1717 a number of Brethren met in the Appletree Tavern, in London, and choosing Anthony Sayre as Grand Master, they formed the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England—the *first* Grand Lodge. It is not necessary to examine more fully the history of Masonry then, but I will merely state that in 1723 this Grand Lodge, after having had collected and collated the old charges and regulations of Masons, adopted what is now known as Anderson's Constitution, the first constitution for the government of the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons.

SECOND GRAND LODGE, "YORK."

York followed London, and in 1725 they formed a *second* rival Grand Lodge, styling it, by way of distinction, the Grand Lodge of *all* England. Being located at a distance from the Metropolis, and for other reasons, its existence, which was but limited and brief, left no traces of its work save in its meagre minutes. No subordinate of it now exists, nor is it possible to trace even faintly its ritual or esoteric work.

The Grand Lodge of England, in London, in attempting to assume to itself powers which it was claimed by some of the subordinates it did not possess, met with much opposition from a large number of Brethren residing in London who were members of subordinate Lodges. The feeling ran so high and the excitement was so intense as to lead to open rebellion and, finally, secession about the year 1738.

THIRD GRAND LODGE, "ANCIENTS."

The seceders were so earnest and active that their opposition was continued until 1752, when a *third* Grand Lodge was formed at London, called "The Grand Lodge of England

According to the Old Institution.” The new Grand Lodge at once became aggressive, and the older one, in order to protect their Lodges from being visited by the seceders, made certain changes in the esoteric work of the first two degrees, for which changes they were called “Modern” Masons, while the seceders worked as they had been taught, and styled themselves the “Ancient” Masons. The “Ancients” also introduced the Royal Arch degree, which they took from the Master’s part, and they also placed themselves upon record that a subordinate Lodge, having the necessary number of members, and being otherwise qualified could open bodies of the higher degrees under their Lodge warrant. From this time forward, for a period of over 60 years, bitter enmity existed between the two bodies, until the year 1813, when they were united, forming the present prosperous United Grand Lodge of England.

The new Grand Lodge, or the “Ancients,” introduced their Lodges in this country in Philadelphia, on July 7, 1758, when a warrant was granted to Lodge No. 2 (the present Lodge No. 2 being the fourth of the name). Lodge No. 3 followed closely afterwards, and has had a continuous existence to the present time.*

In 1764 a Provincial Grand Lodge warrant was issued for Pennsylvania, and this was the body from which our present Grand Lodge derived its life.†

* The records of Grand Lodge (*General Register*) show the following as to Lodges Nos. 2 and 3: “Warrant granted 1758, July 7, to No. 2, Philadelphia; surrendered and renewed 1780, February 10 (being No. 69 on the registry of the Grand Lodge in London); second warrant surrendered and renewed 1787, January 13; third warrant surrendered 1789, March 30, and fourth warrant granted 1789, June 24, to a number of the late members of old Lodge No. 2.”

“No. 3, 1767, October 20, Philadelphia, surrendered and renewed January 13, 1787.”

† The records of Grand Lodge (*General Register*) show “No. 1, July 15, 1761, Philadelphia. The warrant No. 1 (being also No. 89 on the registry of the Grand Lodge of London) is that of Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and became vacant September 25, 1786.”

PREMIER MASONIC CITY.

But Freemasonry was introduced long prior to this in Pennsylvania. In the year 1730, Daniel Coxe, of New Jersey, was appointed Provincial Grand Master for New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, by the Duke of Norfolk, Grand Master of England, on the petition of a number of Brethren residing in those States.* Daniel Coxe, it is now established beyond doubt, authorized the establishment of a Lodge in Philadelphia, which met annually on the feast of St. John the Baptist, and we find that, at the St. John's festival, June 24th, 1732, William Allen was elected Grand Master, and Benjamin Franklin one of the Wardens.† Yearly thereafter the Brethren met on St. John the Baptist Day and elected their Grand officers. It was said some years ago that Franklin derived his authority from Henry Price, of Boston, but there has not yet been found the least authority for the statement that Benjamin Franklin ever received a warrant or authority of any kind from Henry Price, of Boston, or that Henry Price ever had any authority to issue a warrant to him or any one else at that time. Franklin as Grand Master in 1734, merely asked for recognition as one Mason would do of another; this and nothing more. Benjamin Franklin in 1734 reprinted Anderson's Constitution of 1723, and had the pleasure no doubt of supplying Henry Price, of Boston, with copies of the same. The two recognized each other as Brethren and as Grand Masters, and as both working under the same Masonic Grand Lodge, and a strong friendship was formed, visits being made as opportunity offered to the several Grand bodies.

The Lodge formed in 1730 and others subsequently were prosperous. In 1755 they numbered three Lodges with over 130 members. They built the first Masonic Hall in America,

*See Reprint of Early Minutes Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania; also Dedication Memorial Volume. Published by Library Committee.

†See *Pennsylvania Gazette*, on file in Historical Society of Pennsylvania; also, Reprint of Grand Lodge Minutes.

known as the Freemason's Lodge, in Lodge alley,* now Gold street, near Second and Walnut streets, which was used as a place of meeting for the "Moderns" and "Ancients," also as a place of confinement for those who were inimicable to the Government during the Revolutionary War.†

The introduction of the "Ancients" in Philadelphia, in 1752, led to the gradual dissolution of the "Moderns," leaving the field to the prosperous and successful "Ancients." Prior thereto, however, the larger portion of the membership had applied to and were made regular masons according to the Ancient regulations. The Freemasons' Lodge was sold under an act of assembly passed September 6, 1785, and the proceeds arising from its sale distributed, a portion being presented to the City of Philadelphia in 1793, to be used in furnishing the poor with fuel, this fund is still in existence. Some of the most distinguished citizens of Philadelphia were identified at first with the "Moderns" and afterwards with the "Ancients." Among this number was Doctor William Smith, Provost of the University, who became afterwards Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, he was on one or more occasions the orator of the "Moderns."

I will now call your attention to the occurrences of September 25, 1786.

MONTGOMERY NO. 19, MELITA NO. 295.

At a meeting of the Grand Lodge held on the same day, the proceedings of the Convention were approved, after which a petition was presented from a number of Brethren asking for a new warrant for a Lodge in Philadelphia, action therein was deferred until December 18, 1786, when the same Brethren

* "Freemasons Lodge" a three story brick building of modest appearance on the south side of Norris Alley, (now Lodge Alley) 89 feet 9 inches West of Second St., having a depth of 60 feet and a width of 22 feet.—*Dedication memorial volume*, page 24.

† In 1777 it became the prison of the Free Quakers who were confined there for giving information to the enemy.—*Dedication memorial volume*, page 31.

being endorsed by the recommendation of Lodge No. 2, Grand Lodge granted them a warrant to take the number made vacant by the Military Lodge, No. 19, whose warrant was granted on May 18, 1779, and was surrendered in 1784.*

On January 13, 1787, at an extra Grand Lodge, the new Lodge No. 19, was duly constituted, and Bro. Thomas Proctor was installed Master; Chester Young, S. W., and J. Mellick, J. W. This Lodge, No. 19, on June 5, 1836, adopted the name of "Montgomery," and from this Lodge our Lodge "Melita" received its God-speed, on January 15, 1855, and for its peace and prosperity "Melita" will always pray.

APPROVAL OF GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND "ANCIENTS."

With that Masonic spirit which has always prompted the Grand Lodge, efforts were at once made to receive the approval of the Craft for the action of September 25, and more especially that of the Grand Lodge of England, from whom it sprung. Owing, however, to the death of Laurence Dermott, Deputy Grand Master, and the necessarily then long delay of the postal communications, our letters of 1783 and 1786 and 1791 were not answered until September 5, 1792, when a letter was read from England in reply to our letters announcing to them the independence of our Grand Lodge and of the forwarding of the Book of Constitutions, etc. This letter contained such cheering words to the members of Grand Lodge that they are worthy of preservation. It reads:

"We rejoice on the restoration of a fraternal intercourse and communication between our respective Grand Lodges, which we cannot but lament had ever been suspended, and which the Grand Lodge of England agree forever to cultivate and support.

The accession of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to a fraternal alliance with the Grand Lodge of England, and consequently with the several Grand Lodges in

* Extract from General Register Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, "No. 19, 1779, May 18. First Pennsylvania Regiment Artillery in United States service, surrendered about 1784, per resolution 27 December, 1783."

No. 19, 1786, December 26, Philadelphia, granted to fill the vacancy occasioned by the surrender of the warrant next above mentioned."

the different quarters of the globe in alliance with that of England, so conducive to the honor and interest of our ancient Craft, must necessarily be highly satisfactory to the Masonic world at large.

Having perused your Book of Constitutions, we reflect with pleasure that the Grand Lodge of England has given birth to a Grand Lodge in the Western world, whose strict adherence to the ancient and immutable Landmarks of our Fraternity reflects honor on its original founders. Here we must beg leave to state that we conceive that in constituting your Grand Lodge we necessarily communicated to it the same independent sovereign Masonic authority within your jurisdiction which we ourselves possessed within ours, amenable to no superior jurisdiction under Heaven, and subject only to the immutable Landmarks of the Craft. All Grand Lodges in Masonry being necessarily Free, Independent and Equipollent within their respective jurisdictions, which consequently excludes the idea of subjection to a foreign authority, or the establishment of an Imperium in Imperio.

It having, however, pleased the Almighty Architect of the Universe to erect the Province of Pennsylvania into a sovereign State, we coincide with you in opinion, that it became expedient to remove those doubts which either had or might be entertained by the uninformed upon that point, by declaring in the most explicit manner the independence of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the full and ample authority of which, limited only by the unchangeable Landmarks of the system, as it cannot be increased, so neither can it ever be diminished by political changes or revolutions.

The principles of pure Masonry, like those of true morality, must in every age and nation remain the same, unmoved by the shock of Empires or the vicissitudes of human events."

LAURANCE DERMOTT.

On the receipt of the news of the death of Laurence Dermott, the "Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, in order to show the just regard and respect of Grand Lodge for our late Bro. Laurence Dermott, the patron and founder thereof," it was recommended to every member of the Grand Lodge to appear on St. John's Day next, June 24, 1792, with aprons bordered with black, or other marks of mourning," and the Brethren so appeared.*

* "Laurence Dermott was an Irishman, and was born in 1720. He was initiated in Ireland in 1740, and having served all the offices, including that of Secretary, was installed W. M. of No. 26, Dublin, June 24, 1746. He was a man of considerable capacity, of some social proclivities, and at an early age came to London, with, perhaps, little money in his purse, but many projects in his head. In 1756 he achieved literary fame by producing a book which will hand down his name to all time. He entitled it "Ahiman Rezon," or "A Help to a Brother." Various interpretations of it have been given,

It will be impossible for me at this time to present to you the full history of the Grand Lodge during the century just closed.

I will however ask your indulgence for a short time that I may present such matters as may, I hope, interest you.

LOTTERIES.

In the closing years of the last and the early part of this century, it was fashionable to wage money in the lottery wheel—churches, halls, houses, in fact almost everything, was pushed ahead by the whirl of the wheel of chance. The Masons were no exception, and the Grand Lodge was the recipient of presents of tickets in State and private lotteries, and Brother Grand Treasurer was more than once directed to purchase tickets in such and such a lottery. It is noted in the minutes that of all the tickets held by the Grand Lodge, but one drew a prize of \$6.80, all the rest drew blanks as it was reported.*

Dr. Crucefix renders it "a corruption of three Hebrew words—*achi*, man, *raison*—signifying the thoughts or opinions of a true and faithful Brother." It was immediately accepted as the Book of Constitutions of the Ancients. His Masonic ability was great, and his knowledge of Craft and Royal Arch was considerable. Lecturing frequently, installing officers, adjudicating continually, combatting with opponents and refuting false charges, which in those less courteous days were continually preferred against him; for in spite of his good qualities it was part of his nature, by his vigorous and straight forward conduct to bring upon himself adverse criticisms and to provoke jealousies and animadversions which have lasted to the present day. He was certainly not "mealy-mouthed," some of his replies being pungent, not a little acrimonious, but always incisive, especially in matters concerning the regularity of Proceedings of the Grand Lodge. This independence of thought and action, which he thus asserted so freely within certain limits, enabled him to exercise an extraordinary influence over the Grand Lodge; and the great success of the Ancients at this time was due in a large measure to the untiring zeal of Dermott, who for so many years swayed its rulings, ever impelling it forward, staunch for its rights and the old traditions of Masonry." From notes on Lau. Dermott, G. S., and his works, by William Matthew Bywater, P. M., No. 19, London, 1884. Privately printed.

*Reprint of Proceedings Grand Lodge of Penn. Page 271-274. Proceedings Grand Lodge Dec. 1, 1817.

“OUR” WASHINGTON.

No man was ever more loved, venerated, yea, adored, by his fellow citizens, than was General George Washington. The Masonic Fraternity were proud to call him Brother, for he met with them on the Square, and in procession walked with them on the Level. He made, in many cases, the Mason's Lodge the means of distributing his alms. It was the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania that first hailed him as “Grand Master Workman,” and proposed him as “Grand Master of the United States.” He was the recipient of a copy of the Ahiman Rezon which was dedicated to him, and a copy magnificently bound was presented to him. [By the kindness of the owner, Brother Robert C. Davis, I am permitted to submit to your inspection this evening, this presentation copy.] More than one complimentary address was presented to him, to which he replied as a Brother should. The original letters in reply are now framed and in the Library room of the Grand Lodge.

And when at last his spirit left the body and he was no more, the Masonic Fraternity were selected as the chief mourners at his funeral, and Freemasonry received additional lustre if possible, because he had lived.

Some of the most beautiful tributes that the brain can conceive and the tongue give expression to, were paid to the memory of “Our” Washington. No man ever secured a deeper hold on the love of his people, and no man ever died more regretted. To-day the same veneration exists as it did at the close of the last century.*

* Grand Lodge on June 6, 1823, subscribed \$1000 towards the erection of a monument at Mount Vernon over the remains of Washington, conditioned on the appropriation of \$10,000 by other Grand Lodges when specific arrangements are made for the erection of the same.

Sept. 2, 1850. Grand Lodge ordered that a block of marble be procured for the Washington monument, at Washington, D. C.

June 7, 1852, the receipt of the block of marble was announced by Millard Fillmore, President of the U. S.

July 3, 1829, the Washington Benevolent Society of Pennsylvania presented to the Grand Lodge the Masonic apron of General Washington, which had been presented to that society by his legatees. (This apron is now in the library of the Grand Lodge.)

BROTHER LAFAYETTE.

Second to Washington stands Bro., the General Marquis G.M. de Lafayette, the fellow-soldier of Washington. On his visit to the United States in 1824, the Grand Lodge appointed a committee to receive him as a Brother, and at an Extra Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge, held October 2, 1824,* he was, by the following resolutions, elected a member of the Grand Lodge:

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, glorifying in the honor this day conferred on her by the visit of Brother Gilbert Mortier de Lafayette and anxious to enroll among her members an individual so much distinguished by all the virtues which enoble the Masonic character, has

Resolved, That all the rights, dignities and privileges of a member of this Grand Lodge be, and the same are hereby, conferred on Brother Gilbert Mortier de Lafayette.

Bro. Lafayette being admitted, the R. W. Deputy Grand Master Bro. Jas. Harper made to him a very feeling and impressive address which was responded to by Bro. Lafayette as follows:

Right Worshipful Grand Master and Brethren :

I have often thought that we owe as much to our enemies as to our friends, and if this observation is ever true, it is most true when applied to us as Masons. It is to the enmity and the persecutions of a Francis II. and Ferdinand VII. that the Masons of Europe in modern times have been indebted for opportunities of proving, through much suffering and peril, that our principles are pure and that our devotion to them is unchangeable. The Lodges of Spain in particular, have been the victims of royal fears, but though dispersed, their members still are Masons, and though much oppressed, their light has not been extinguished. You, Right Worshipful Sir and Brethren, reposing under the eaves of your own peaceful institutions, hear of these things only by report of those who come to admire your prosperity and to share by your hospitality the fruit of your labors.

"I thank you for the honor you have just conferred upon me, and assure you that I shall never forget this mark of your kind distinction, by which I am made a member of a body of which Franklin and Washington were associates."

The Brethren were then severally presented to Brother Lafayette, and he was tendered a fine banquet in the Banqueting Room of the (Second) Hall, on Chestnut street.

*Proceedings Grand Lodge.

During the war of 1812-14, the Grand Lodge tendered its services to the Committee of Defense of the city, to take a turn of duty at the fortifications preparing for the defense of the city, at such time and place as the committee may require. Upon a call of the Committee, 510 members of Grand and subordinate Lodges responded and reported for duty.*

ANTI-MASONRY.

Allow me now to call your attention to the period known, as that of the anti-Masonic excitement.

As early as 1821, in the city of Pittsburgh, the Presbyterian Synod made a violent attack on Freemasonry, and a member of the Synod replied in its defence. The Grand Lodge, on learning of the action taken by the Lodges of Pittsburgh on the same, passed the following resolutions:

Whereas, The Subordinate Lodge or individual Mason who undertakes to answer a public charge against the Fraternity in general, assumes a right which belongs to the Grand Lodge

And whereas much injury may be inflicted upon Masonry by the injudicious and indiscreet exercise of that right, Therefore

Resolved, That the Subordinate Lodges be requested whenever in future any publication shall appear, affecting the character or interest of the order in general, or this Grand Lodge in particular not to publish anything in answer thereto without the approbation of this Grand Lodge but to transmit without loss of time to the Grand Secretary to be laid before the Grand Lodge which will then take such measures as in their opinion the occasion may require.

Resolved That the Grand Secretary be requested to thank the Worshipful Lodges of Pittsburgh for their able and zealous reply to the late publication of the Presbitery of that city

From this time until 1836 the storm raged with all the fury of a political fight, reaching its height from 1828 to 1832. That it affected Masonry there is no doubt, but the result was not what its enemies had anticipated. Freemasonry did *not* cease its labors, it was *not* annihilated, it was *not* blotted out. The excitement had the effect of ridding the Fraternity of the imperfect material which had accumulated, and which was of no use for the building.

*See Lossing's Field Book of war of 1812.

For a time, however, feelings were so intense that father would not recognize son, the wife her husband, the brother his brother, the son his parent. Nothing was too bad to be said of Freemasonry, the worst too good, yet it lived! Freemasons of high standing in the community were dragged from their beds and hurried before the Inquisitorial Commission at Harrisburg, presided over by one who was physically disqualified for admission to a Masonic Lodge, and who was wreaking his vengeance therefore on a Fraternity, whose Landmarks prohibited imperfect men from being made Masons. Candidates were elected and defeated in the political canvass on the anti-Masonic ticket. Finally, finding that they could not find in the Fraternity a betrayer of its secrets, the persecution gradually died away, leaving Freemasonry in a better and more prosperous condition than before.

CHARITY.

It is said that one of the Corner-stones of Freemasonry is Charity. How true this is, or whether it is an idle assertion, you have judged.

Ever ready to aid the poor and distressed, we find that it was in olden times annually the custom for the Grand Lodge to attend church on one of the St. John's days, and it was the invariable rule to take up a collection, the proceeds of which were distributed among the poor of the parish, the poor prisoners in the jail, and the poor Brethren.

The yellow fever, raging violently in 1793, during which over 5,000 persons died from its attack within about ten weeks, and the recurrence of it annually from 1794 to 1802, called forth the active sympathy of the Craft. The Grand and subordinate Lodges gave freely of their means for the aid of the poor sufferers by the fever. In the year of 1800, the sum of \$1773.74 was given in charity by the Grand and subordinate Lodges.

The Grand Lodge, as early as 1787, became owners of five shares in the Philadelphia Dispensary, in which the sick were attended free, but, owing to the distance that the applicants lived from the Dispensary, the money, (entire), was returned to the Grand Lodge, December 18, 1816.

GRAND LODGE CHARITY FUND.

In the year 1799, the Grand Lodge with that wisdom which has ever characterized it, formed the nucleus of the present Grand Lodge Charity fund. One-third of the moneys received for use of the Grand Lodge at that time were directed to be appropriated for the purposes of charity, and was to be placed in the hands of a Grand Committee on Charity. It was a small beginning, to be sure, and the fund passed through many different stages of progress, until, in 1821, the Committee was composed of five members; rules were adopted, monthly meetings were ordered to be held, and annually the Committee were directed to apply to the Lodge, Chapters, etc., for donations. In 1826 the fund amounted to \$1428.10; and in 1843, to \$3842; at which time the Grand Lodge directed the interest of the fund to be distributed. The distribution of this Charity Fund was then general, and not confined to either sex.

In 1847 the fund amounted to \$4498.55, and the Grand Lodge then directed the income to be set apart for the widows and children of deceased Brethren in need, and worthy of assistance.

This fund has from year to year increased until at the last Annual Report of the Trustees in 1885 it amounted to the sum of \$73,000. The income is distributed by Almoners appointed by the Grand Master from the several city Lodges. Meetings are held weekly, to examine and relieve the worthy.

GIRARD BEQUEST.

Bro. Stephen Girard,* whose death occurred on December 21, 1831, by will bequeathed to the Grand Lodge the sum of \$20,000, which sum was to be invested and the interest to be re-invested until the principal reached the sum of \$30,000, when

* Stephen Girard was made a Mason in Lodge No. 2, in 1778. He was ever attentive to the performance of his Masonic duties. He believed in the Grand Lodge's honor and integrity, and invested largely in its loans, at one time subscribing for the entire loan the sum of \$5,000, for completing the first Chestnut St. hall, January 9, 1813.

the interest should be used for the assistance of poor, worthy, distressed Brethren. In 1844, the principal reached the sum of \$31,000, and distribution of the income was commenced.

At the last Annual Report for 1885 of the Trustees of the Girard Bequest the principal amounted to the sum of \$62,500. This sum is distributed by Stewards appointed by the Grand Master from the city Lodges. The Stewards meet weekly.

These figures speak louder than words—invested funds of \$135,500, the interest of which is available for the immediate relief of the poor, distressed worthy Brother, his widow and orphans.

Nor have the subordinate Lodges been behind the Grand Lodge in the distribution of their alms. There is scarcely a Lodge but what has at each meeting a call upon it for sympathy and charity.

A rough estimate would place the amount of charity distributed by the Grand and subordinate Lodges at over \$500,000. What a monument to man's humanity to man! More enduring than the walls of this magnificent building in which we now meet, which may be looked upon as but the foundation of a "GRAND LODGE HOME FOR THE AGED MASON."* This is a long-deferred wish of the Grand Lodge, and when the day does come for action, the Home will be worthy of the name.

HOME FOR FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

In the meantime, while the Grand Lodge is getting ready, a few Brethren, having the love of the Brotherhood at heart, and a desire to add a jewel to the crown of Masonry, have caused to be prepared in this city a "Home for Free and Accepted Masons," and therein are gathered fourteen Brethren who, without *that Home* provided by the Craft, would not now in their old days, when man is a burthen to himself, have a place to lay their heads. Here they live in peace and content, without a care for the morrow.

*Grand Lodge Proceedings, June 5, 1865, when a committee of five was appointed to take the subject into consideration, and report at their earliest convenience the result of their deliberations.

I am proud this night to congratulate you, Worshipful Master, and to say to our visitors here present, that Melita Lodge, ever liberal in works of charity, is a member of *that* Home, and the members of the Corporation ask from you all a kind word, a *money sympathy* and a visit to the Home, where your words of cheer will find ready listeners in those old men and Masons—your Brothers as well as mine. The Grand Lodge has gone as far as it can at present. It has commended it to your care; it has expressed in plain and unmistakable words, through its Grand Master, R. W. Bro. E. Coppeé Mitchell, that *there is the place* where Masonic charity may be confidently bestowed.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

The Grand Lodge has always been ready to do its duty, as the representative of the entire Fraternity; when the sudden call for aid startles the country, and the sufferers at Chicago, Richmond, Portland, Maine; Chester, New Orleans, Chambersburg, the Jewish Refugees, the poor of the city of Philadelphia, Galveston, Texas and Charleston, S. C. have realized that the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons knows no sect or creed, no country, no peoples; Fraternity and Humanity guide her action, the Brotherhood of man is what she teaches.

These are noble lessons. The volume in which they are contained is of goodly size but well worth the study. To the student every page turned, teaches a new mode to do good, and here and there, in bold relief, is to be read the simple words, Toleration, Brotherly love.

In the course of a few years the Grand Lodge will no doubt come into possession of the real estate bequeathed by Brother Isaac Wallaz, of Lodge No. 115, which, after the death of his wife, was, "to be used for the benefit of such distressed Masons as may come in due form before them." Bro. Wallaz died in 1857. On March 21, 1857, a petition was presented asking the Grand Lodge to relinquish the same, but it declined, owing to the fact that it was a trust fund to be administered by them as a charity.

FREEMASONRY IN WAR.

Another beautiful exemplification of the teachings of Freemasonry was exhibited when, during the late civil war, there was formed in Philadelphia a Freemasons Soldiers' Relief Association for the care and attention of the wounded soldiers, which Association received the sanction and approval of the Grand Lodge.* Right nobly they performed their work. God alone knows how many a poor, suffering Brother was made glad by the presence by his side of his Brother of the Mystic Tie.

Among the important acts of the Grand Lodge during the century we may for a moment note:

ACTS OF INCORPORATION.

In 1804 it declared its settled conviction that charters of incorporation ingrafted on Masonic establishments are by far the most serious and alarming innovations that have ever threatened their secrecy, harmony, good order and perpetuity.†

*Proceedings Grand Lodge, September 1, 1862.

† The Committee on Correspondence having had referred to them the communication from the Grand Lodge of Virginia respecting the propriety and expediency of applying for an act of incorporation, made report:

"That in the opinion of your committee such a measure is neither expedient, proper, nor consistent with the nature and design of our institutions. The only ostensible reason for seeking this novel appendage is the more certain security of titles to real estate; but when it is considered how little danger or inconvenience attends the creation of trusts for this purpose, in the hands of solid and respectable members of the Fraternity, and their occasional renewal on the demise of any considerable number of such trustees, your committee cannot consider this object of any pressing necessity, and any benefits to be derived from it they apprehend would be counterbalanced by evils and dangers of an incalculable extent. They trust, indeed, that they will not be considered as betraying a warmth of feeling beyond what the occasion calls for, when they declare their settled conviction that charters of incorporation ingrafted on Masonic establishments are by far the most serious and alarming innovations that have ever threatened their secrecy, harmony, good order, and perpetuity. Has it been considered, your committee would ask, that by the acceptance of a charter the Masonic institution becomes the creature of the civil government, that its freedom of action and independence are destroyed, that its conduct becomes subjected to external control and restraint, and that, instead of being accountable only to the

MASONIC SCHOOLS.

In 1815, the Grand Lodge appointed a committee to establish in any apartment of the hall (on Chestnut st.) a Sunday School for "the teaching of the unlearned adults to read the Holy Scripture." This was the first adult Sunday School established in this city; an adult day school was established in 1803, in Pennsylvania Freemasons' Hall.

ELECTIONS AND BUSINESS.

It was the rule prior to 1816 for the Lodges to hold semi-annual elections for officers, in that year the elections were ordered to be held annually.

On December 4, 1843, a most important change was made in the working of the subordinate Lodges by the passage of the following: "Whereas it has been the custom for some years past for the subordinate Lodges under this jurisdiction to transact all their ordinary business in an Entered Apprentice Lodge, and as questions are frequently started therein, and

Great Architect, it becomes a responsible member of the political body? The usual incidents of incorporated institutions will, of course, be annexed to these, and one of the most prominent is their being subjected to judicial process, not only in the process of suing and being sued for pecuniary demands, but on the complaints of individuals who may be induced by the legal tribunals of the country for the redress of such real or imaginary wrongs as ought only to be redressed or considered in the bosom of the Lodge. Thus may our most secret transactions be exposed to the observation, criticism, and sneers of the uninitiated whenever a disappointed candidate for office, or an unworthy expelled Brother, shall choose to resort to a court for the satisfaction of an alleged or pretended injury. On such application the grounds of our decision will be examined, and after an unwarrantable and ruinous exposure of proceedings which the nature of our society requires to be sacred and confidential, we may be subjected to the painful necessity of seeing our ancient and inviolable landmarks disregarded and set at naught by men who however otherwise wise and learned, have not a view of the whole ground, and are in consequence ignorant of their utility and insensible of the beautiful and consistent aspect they present to the Masonic observer. Your committee will not more particularly advert to other inconveniences of a similar nature, nor to still more alarming evils, which in the course of human events and the urgency of political circumstances might possibly, in their opinion, ensue the adoption of this measure; nor do they mean to dwell on the impolicy of encouraging a spirit of insubordination by suffering dissatisfied individuals to hope for any extraneous aids against the occasional censures or other acts of the bodies to which they belonged. They will only add, that

arguments entered into which are improper to discuss in any other than a Lodge of Master Masons, *Therefore, be it Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Grand Lodge that all subordinate Lodges under this jurisdiction should hold their meetings and transact all business, except the conferring of the lower degrees, lecturing thereon, and election for officers, in a Lodge of Master Masons."

Some years afterward the electing of officers was removed to the Masters' Lodge. There may have been wisdom in this, but very little justice to the Entered Apprentice, in thus depriving him of his rights.

ANCIENT MASONRY.

In 1795, the Grand Lodge declared that Ancient Masonry consisted of three degrees, to which is added the Royal Arch. Under the Ancients, any Lodge having members competent had the right to open Lodges of the higher degrees, with the further right of conferring them. We find the Royal Arch

the Grand Lodge of England once agreed to apply for a charter of incorporation, and a bill was introduced into Parliament for that purpose, but no sooner was its pernicious tendency discovered than the united remonstrances of the Brethren induced the then Deputy Grand Master, who was a member of the House of Commons, to move for its postponement *sine die*. The motion was agreed to, and the measure has not been revived. Such a measure was also once brought forward in your Right Worshipful Body. It was referred to a committee, where it has rested for several years, and it is hoped will never again be heard of.

"Your committee being of opinion that the order and symmetry, the peace, welfare, and durability of our ancient and honorable society are founded on its total independence of civil or political establishments, and that its ability to perpetuate its existence without any other aid than the conscientious labors of the Brethren and the favor of the Divine Architect is not diminished, recommend that a fraternal communication be made to the Grand Lodge of Virginia, thanking them for their confidence and respect in submitting this question to your consideration, and should you concur in the sentiments contained in this report that the same be transmitted therewith to the said R. W. Grand Lodge.

"JAMES MILNOR,

"PETER LEBARBIER DUPLESSIS.

"ST. JOHN'S DAY, 25th June, 1804."

On consideration the said report was unanimously adopted, and the Grand Secretary directed to communicate the same to the R. W. Grand Lodge of Virginia.

worked under Lodge No. 3, in 1767, and the order of the Temple in 1783, while a Grand Lodge of Perfection, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, met by permission in 1781.

ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

In 1795 a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was formed by the Grand Lodge, with the Grand Master as presiding officer.* The Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter continued to work in harmony until 1824, when at the suggestion of a General Convention of Masons, which met in Philadelphia, the Grand Chapter was separated from the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter became sovereign and independent. Then it was, that the Mark and Most Excellent Masters Degrees were incorporated as part of the system of Royal Arch Masonry.

* The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, The supreme Masonic jurisdiction over all Lodges of Ancient York Masons, held in Pennsylvania, has uniformly been and is duly and legally vested in the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania;

And whereas, The officers of the different Lodges under the jurisdiction of the said Grand Lodge are constitutionally members of the Grand Lodge, although they may not have obtained any degree above that of Master Mason

And whereas, It is the acknowledged right of all regular warranted Lodges, so far as they have ability and numbers, to make Masons in the higher degrees, and it is possible that some differences may exist or innovation may be attempted to be introduced in those higher degrees, which for want of some proper place of appeal may create schism among Brethren;

And whereas, Since many years, there has been established in this city, according to ancient forms, a Royal Arch Chapter, under the sanction of the warrant of Lodge No. 3, whose work has met with the approbation of all visiting Royal Arch Masons from the different parts of the world;

And whereas, The number of Royal Arch Masons is greatly increased, inasmuch that other Chapters are established in this city and in other parts of Pennsylvania;

And whereas, It was always contemplated that such Chapters, regularly held, should be under the protection of this Grand Lodge;

And whereas, It is the prevailing wish of the Royal Arch Masons within this jurisdiction that a Royal Arch *Grand Chapter* should be opened under the authority of this Grand Lodge;

Be it therefore, and it is hereby, resolved, That a GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER be opened, under the immediate sanction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

In 1849 Grand Lodge authorized Franklin Lodge, No. 134, to loan their warrant to open a Commandery of Knights Templar.* Owing to serious troubles in the order of Knights Templar within the Jurisdiction, resulting from this use of Lodge warrant, the Grand Lodge subsequently reiterated its decision of 1795 and declared that Ancient Freemasonry consisted but of four degrees—Entered Apprentice, Fellow-Craft, Master Mason and the Royal Arch.†

STATISTICS.

To gain some idea of the past and present condition of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, and its wonderful progress, I would say that in 1824 there were in the entire State 110 Lodges, in Philadelphia alone there were thirty Lodges with 1085 members.

In 1831 there were forty-eight Lodges in the State, twenty-seven being in the city. In 1833, the height of the anti-Masonic excitement, there were in Philadelphia *twenty-five* Lodges, returning *seventy-one* initiates and *seven hundred and fifty* members; in the State there were *nineteen* Lodges, returning *forty-one* initiates and *five hundred and four* members, making a total of forty-four Lodges in the entire State, returning one hundred and twelve initiates and twelve hundred and fifty four members. According to the last returns in the Grand Secretary's office for 1884, there were sixty-two city Lodges,

* December 17, 1849.

† February 16, 1857, the following was adopted by the Grand Lodge:

Whereas, Certain Encampments of Knights Templar have been formed in this jurisdiction under color of the authority of Blue Lodge warrants, and it is desirable that the opinion of this Grand Lodge should be expressed upon the subject;

Therefore be it resolved, That this Grand Lodge reiterates the language of its predecessors, which is, that Masonry consists of but three degrees, including the degree of the Holy Royal Arch, and this Grand Lodge claims no jurisdiction beyond the limits of Ancient Masonry;

Also resolved, That any rights or privileges or immunities, that may at any time have been granted by this Grand Lodge to any Lodge or Lodges of Knights Templar, be and they are hereby withdrawn from and after the first day of May next ensuing.

having five hundred and forty-two initiates and eleven thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven members; there were *three hundred and seventeen Lodges* outside of Philadelphia with *fifteen hundred and ninety one initiates*, and *twenty-five thousand two hundred and forty-eight members*, making a total of three hundred and seventy-nine Lodges having twenty-one hundred and thirty-three initiates, and thirty-seven thousand one hundred and seventy-five members.

During the century the Grand Lodge has had five constitutions or "Ahiman Rezon,"* and has met in ten different halls.†

*1st. The Ahiman Rezon by Dr. Wm. Smith, 1783. This Ahiman Rezon contained the regulations or constitution of the "Ancients" as prepared by Laurence Dermott in 1756.

2d. The Ahiman Rezon adopted by Grand Lodge, April 11, 1825, which contained the Andersons Constitution of 1717, that of the "Moderns."

It is curious that the Grand Lodge should thus change its fundamental law from that of the "Ancients," which required of the candidate for Masonry a perfect man, sound in all his limbs and members; to that of the "Moderns," which required the man to be able to do the work of the Craft, or, as R. W. Past Grand Master, Bro. Richard Vaux has it, a "*fractional man*."

3d. The Ahiman Rezon of 1857, without the Ancient Constitution.

4th. The Ahiman Rezon of 1868.

5th. The Ahiman Rezon of 1877.

†1st. In 1786, Lodge Room, Videll's Alley; a small four-foot-wide alley, running West of Second street, about 80 feet South of Chestnut street.

2d. In second story of Free Quaker Meeting-house, now Apprentices' Library, S. W. corner Fifth and Arch streets, commencing August 23, 1790.

3d. In the Secretary of the Senate room, second story, western part, of the State House (Independence Hall). This room, Grand Lodge occupied from November, 1799, to 1802, when they were obliged to move to give place to Peale's Museum.

4th. In Pennsylvania Freemasons' Hall, 814 Filbert street, from 1802 to Dec. 27, 1810.

5th. In Masonic Hall, Chestnut street and 7th, from December 27, 1810, to March 9, 1819, when it was destroyed by fire.

6th. In Pennsylvania Freemasons' Hall, 814 Filbert street, from March, 1819, to March 1, 1820.

7th. In Masonic Hall, on Chestnut street, (which had been rebuilt,) from March 1, 1820, to June 1835, when the Hall was sold to the Franklin Institute.

8th. In Washington Hall, Third above Spruce street, from December 28, 1835 to September 26, 1855.

9th. In Masonic Hall, on Chestnut street, (rebuilt 1853 to 1855,) September 26, 1855, to September 26, 1873.

10th. In New Masonic Temple, Broad and Filbert streets, September 26, 1873, to present time. The most magnificent Masonic Hall in the world, and the only one devoted exclusively to the purposes of the Fraternity and the dispensing of its charities.

FINANCIAL.

In 1824 the Grand Lodge was worth \$75,132. In 1885 the assets were over \$2,000,000, besides which there was in the sinking fund \$322,448.34, a showing without its parallel. The Grand Lodge has been most fortunate in its Grand Masters, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary and Committees on Finance. Each successive committee has worked earnestly and faithfully for the best interests of the Grand Lodge, but I should be derelict in my duty if I failed to make special reference to the able Chairman of the Committee since the commencement of the present Masonic Temple, W. Bro. John C. Yeager, a Brother whom all delight in honoring, not only for his ability, but for his skill in managing with his Committee the finances of the Grand Lodge. With him we sympathize in his present helpless condition, and trust for a speedy recovery.

GRAND LODGE.

I may be pardoned in speaking for a few moments of the Grand Lodge. I do so with deference to him (R. W. Bro. E. Coppée Mitchell) who favors us with his presence to-night, and who has been honored by the Craft by being elected Grand Master Mason of Pennsylvania. He is better able to speak to you for the Grand Lodge, but in his presence, Brethren, I would say, and I say with a full knowledge gained by a study into our own and other Grand Lodges' histories, that in the past the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has as truly as the plumb line, maintained the ancient Landmarks and regulations of Freemasonry. She has not changed her ritual to meet the so-called wants of the time. She has ever been conservative, attending to her own business in her own way, and willing to grant the same privilege to others. She is ever ready to advance Freemasonry, and has always been fortunate in those whom she has called to preside over her membership—Brethren who have governed the Grand

Lodge with moderation and justice. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to-day stands unequalled for the manner in which its finances and business are managed. It is the best governed, the most faithful to the old Landmarks, the most dignified Grand Lodge on the face of the earth, and above all that, the most harmonious, not only in itself but in its subordinates. I do not wish to detract from other Grand Lodges, but these convictions are the result of years of investigation, and I challenge any one to find her superior in all that I have pointed out.

As of the Grand Lodge, so it may be said of her subordinates. Brethren, you who compose the Lodges, your responsibilities as M^asons are not light. It is you who elect the officers, who elect the Grand Master; choose well, and Masonry will prosper in the future as in the past.

A CENTURY'S PROGRESS.

One hundred and fifty-six years have passed since Masonry was introduced into this country in this city the "Premier" Masonic city under the "Moderns."

One hundred and thirty-one years since the first Lodge was introduced into the United States, in this city the "Premier Masonic city" by the "Ancients."

One hundred and twenty-years since the "Premier" Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was established by the "Ancients."

One hundred years since the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania became sovereign and independent.

Have any one of you ever tried to realize what is embraced within this space of time? A generation is rated as about thirty years. Three !!! four !!!! five !!!!! generations have passed.

What changes have been wrought during this time ! Governments, and nations have changed, people far distant have been brought by the means of a tiny wire within speaking distance, and while in some cases the sound of the voice may not be heard, yet the simple touch of finger is felt over thousands of miles. We know now of events transpiring in Europe hours before they occur ; a child is born there and we know of its safe arrival hours before the mother is through with her travail. A century ago, it took a month to get a letter from shore to shore, now we receive it within a week of its writing. Even the sound of your voice, with its characteristic or peculiar tone or dialect, can be recorded, rolled up and safely transmitted thousands of miles and kept for months or years, being unrolled, your voice can be reproduced, though your body may have been long mouldering in the dust.

These are some of the many wonders of a century. Improvement, Progress, is everywhere, but with these come Decay. The world is growing older every day, evidences of its age are everywhere manifest. Men active in Masonry cease their labors, and the humble member is called to pay the last tribute to his Master. One by one we pass on to the Grand Overseer, throw aside our working tools, and lay us down to rest, worn out with life's hard journey.

But Freemasonry changes not. Her teachings are always the same. Her Landmarks are immovable. She is ever seen, young, strong and vigorous, walking hand in hand with civilization. She bears aloft the torch of truth, is clothed with charity, and with the hand of Brotherly-Love extended to man, she does her share to make this earth a paradise.

All the Brethren then united in singing the following Masonic Hymn, composed expressly for the occasion, at the request of the Committee of Arrangements, by Brother DENNIS F. DEALY:

Master, Father, 'round this altar,
Here we gather free,
For Thy love, ne'er known to falter
Where there's faith in Thee.

Chorus:—Thus our voices, hap'ly blending,
Gladly now we raise
To the throne of joy unending
With the Craftman's praise.

Years have gone and proud the record
We present to Thee;
Fruits of love from the well-garnered
Fields of Masonry.—*Chorus:*

Our Melita, firm in duty,
First to Friendship's call
Harmony and peace ever spreading
Happiness o'er all.—*Chorus:*

With the past so full of brightness,
Our exulting breast
Hopes for future grace and guidance
To a heav'nly rest.—*Chorus:*

The Worshipful Master then introduced Past Master and Secretary, Brother DENNIS F. DEALY, who delivered the following address:

HISTORY OF MELITA LODGE, No. 295.

At this day, with the progression of the times, history is made very rapidly; the events that in one age were sufficient to engage the attention of a generation are now compressed as it were by the great motors of the world, steam and electricity, so that days are hours, months as days, years as months.

Thus we are kept in a whirl of excitement, events so varied and startling are crowded upon us that it is almost a mental strain to keep pace with them, hence it is that truth is so frequently hidden behind the great cloud of fiction.

Masonry, however, free from progression, is not so affected by these outside influences, and it pursues its way calmly and quietly as the tide to the sea, showing only its force and power when encountering the rough winds of adversity.

Melita Lodge, now in existence thirty-one years has no "ample page rich with the spoils of time," but there are some points of its history that it will be well to have recorded for the satisfaction of the present members, and at the same time form a corner stone upon which those who are to come after us can build.

The mother of our Lodge was Montgomery Lodge, No. 19, to which our charter-members Bros. Harman Yerkes, Wm. E. Harpur, Charles Gilpin, Geo. W. McMahan, Robert McCrory and William Elliott belonged, and in which they were active workers, besides being warm personal and political friends.— The treatment of one of them in No. 19, was sufficient to affect all; and feeling that they had just cause of complaint they determined to sever their connection with that Lodge and form a new one. At a meeting held at the residence of Bro. Charles Gilpin, in the early part of December, 1854, the matter took definite shape and a formal application was drawn up to be presented to the Grand Lodge, at its Annual Communication, December 27.

It was natural to expect that Brother Gilpin would be the first Master, but that Brother relinquished the honor, and it was on his motion that Brother Harman Yerkes was chosen, with Bro. Wm. E. Harpur as Senior Warden, and Bro. Chas. Gilpin as Junior Warden. The list being subsequently made up with Brother George W. McMahan as Treasurer, and Bro. Robert McCrory as Secretary.

The question of name was an important one and after several had been mentioned without any particular attraction, Brother

Gilpin proposed "Melita," which had a magnetic power, and it was at once adopted.

The Grand Lodge Officers received the application with pleasure, and the Charter was granted.

On January 15th, 1855, at Washington Hall, Third Street above Spruce, where the Fraternity had been meeting for several years, and in the presence of a large number of the most distinguished Masons of the day, the new craft was launched upon the great sea of Masonic usefulness.

The sponsors were Brother James Hutchinson, R. W. G. Master, Bro. Peter Williamson, Deputy Grand Master, Bro. John K. Mitchell, S. G. W., Bro. Henry M. Phillips, J. G. W., Bro. Thomas E. Baxter, Grand Treasurer, Bro. William H. Adams, Grand Secretary, with such distinguished Brethren as Gustavus Remak, Richard Vaux, Charles Bard Rees, Alfred P. Hesser, Jacob Laudenslager, Horace L. Peterson, William B. Schnider, *et al*, in subordinate positions.

The installation services were in ample form as laid down in the Ahiman Rezon, with all the appropriate music and adjuncts. At the conclusion the new officers received the congratulations and the best wishes of all who were present.

The name of the Lodge was pronounced very appropriate and was received with universal favor.

Melita was the ancient name of the island of Malta, in the Mediterranean Sea, a spot that has for centuries been a prominent one in tradition and history, both profane and scriptural.

Melita, in the Greek language, signifies a place of honey, and was given to the island, doubtless, on account of the immense number of bees which made large quantities of honey of a peculiarly aromatic quality, and which is unequalled in any other locality. Some writers have thought that Melita was the place referred to as Hyperia, the land of the sun, for it was a beautiful spot, its native animals being very fine, and its birds of magnificent plumage. The name Melita was given to it by the Greeks, who, in the year 736 B. C., dispersed the Phœnicians, who had colonized it 800 years before. The

Greeks held possession for 230 years when they were driven out by the Carthagenians. A Greek historian describes Melita as "having most excellent harbors. Its inhabitants are very rich, inasmuch as they exercise many trades, and in particular manufacture cloths remarkable for their fineness and softness." These cloths were considered a great luxury in Rome. In the year 242 B. C. the Island was seized by the Romans and attached to the crown of Sicily. Its commerce then declined, and it became the resort of pirates. When St. Paul was sent from Jerusalem to Rome, as recorded in Acts 27 and 28, the ship he was in, was wrecked off the coast of Malta (or Melita), and himself saved by the inhabitants. In the Fifth Century it fell successively under the Vandals and Goths, and those barbarians nearly annihilated its commerce. The Goths were expelled by Belisarius in 533. The Arabs conquered it in 870 and fortified the harbors as defences for their corsairs. They held it, except at intervals, until about 1100, when Count Roger, the Norman Conqueror of Sicily, expelled them. It then passed under various rulers, at one time being attached to the German Empire. In 1516 the Emperor Charles V took possession of Malta, and in 1530 granted it to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, whose great strongholds in Rhodes had been seized by the Turks. The Knights erected those stupendous fortifications which made the island so powerful. From this point the Knights could make expeditions against the Turks and Barbary pirates. In 1557 and 1565 the Turks made extraordinary efforts to take it, and brought immense forces against it, especially in the latter year, when the forces were led by the great Solyman in person, but who was forced to retreat with a loss of some 25,000 of his best soldiers. The bravery of these Knights was the admiration of all Europe, and their deeds live in song and story. They managed to control the island until 1798, when Napoleon, by treachery, got the advantage of them, and the Knights surrendered their fortifications to the French. Being treated infamously by the latter, the Maltese arose in arms and, after a two years' siege

with the assistance of the British, the French were forced to surrender. At the treaty of 1814, the Island was ceded to Great Britain, which nation holds it to this day. It is the head-quarters of the British navy in the Mediterranean, and is considered of immense value to them, in fact, almost as strong as Gibraltar and far more useful.

The noble old hospital that the knights built here is yet used as a hospital. It was erected in 1575. Its principal ward is 505 feet long, 30 feet broad and 30 feet high. It is one of the longest rooms in Europe. Here the knights themselves used to attend the sick. The arms of the Grand Hospitallers are emblazoned in the great passages. The sick of all nationalities and religions were admitted. It was a hospital for humanity. The patients were fed from silver dishes, and the plate was valued at \$17,000.

Taking all these episodes into consideration you may see how apt was the selection of the name of our Lodge.

The Craft being safely and auspiciously launched the officers determined that no Lodge should surpass it in the rendition of the work and when occasion demanded it none should excel it in deeds of pure beneficence.

The first meeting of the Lodge, after the constitution, was held in the hall Third street, February 27, 1855, when the By-Laws were adopted and petitions from two candidates received—one of these was entered at the March Meeting, when three other petitions were received for initiation and membership and one for membership. At the April meeting four petitions were received for initiation and membership and five for membership. At these meetings, as well as at all for years after, on the roster of visitors can be found the names of the most noted Masonic lights of the day, among them the officers of the Grand Lodge with those Past Masters of other Lodges who were distinguished throughout the Commonwealth as the most skilled workmen of the Fraternity, but who found their equals upon the floors of Melita Lodge: for Yerkes, Harpur, Gilpin and many of their successors bowed

to no superiors. Bro. Yerkes in particular being one whose work I have never seen equalled.

The large number of petitions received during the first and second years of the Lodge's existence is accounted for in the prominence given Freemasonry through the press in their notices of the erection of the new hall on Chestnut street; the corner-stone of which was laid November 21, 1853 and the building dedicated September 26, 1855, when the Fraternity paraded through the streets in large numbers. Melita, the youngest of the galaxy in the lead with 37 members under the marshalship of Bro. Geo. W. Briggs. The evening of the dedication was the regular meeting night of our Lodge, but the meeting was not permitted there so that the first meeting in the New Hall was a special held October 5. Another interesting fact to be mentioned here that coeval with the creation of Melita Lodge was the formation of that great institution the Grand Lodge Charity Fund.

The first ripple to disturb the harmony of the Lodge was in June 1857 when charges were preferred against a brother for traducing the character of a Brother Mason, one who had applied for membership and been rejected. This brother was expelled but was subsequently restored by the Grand Lodge. Having been a very active member of the Lodge, he had quite a following among its younger members and a bad feeling resulted which lasted some time.

The first formal visitation of the Grand Officers was made October 28, 1857 when there were present 50 of our members and 62 visitors.

The Grand Secretary in his report to Bro. Peter Williamson, Right Worshipful Grand Master, says: "The Lodge is in a truly prosperous condition and now numbers some 103 members. Aid to the unfortunate has been dispensed literally and the surplus funds, which for so young a Lodge are considerable have been securely invested for future usefulness."

In this year the Initiation fee which had been \$35, was increased to \$40.

In December 1857 Bro. Robert McCrory relinquished the station of Secretary to take that of Junior Warden, and your present Secretary was unanimously chosen as his successor.

At a special meeting held May 10, 1859, the first severe blow to the happiness of the Lodge was felt when the death of Bro. McCrory, then Senior Warden, occurred. He was stricken down suddenly and thus the grief at his loss was rendered the more acute. It was, indeed, a terrible shock; among the zealous workers for the welfare of the Lodge none could surpass him, his mind was wrapped up in Melita. He was a man among men, trusty, tried and true, he never wavered in the cause of right and he never faltered in well doing; no obstacle prevented his efforts to aid a friend and brother. The Great Master in receiving him near His Throne must have greeted him as a good and faithful servant.

At the breaking out of the Rebellion when troops were called for, a resolution was passed, that all members of the Lodge responding to the Country's call should be exempt from dues during their absence from the city. Early in 1862 when the occasion demanded it, delegates from the several Lodges in the City met together and formed a Soldiers and Sailors Masonic Relief Association. The object of which was to aid those unfortunate members of the Fraternity who arrived in the city suffering and destitute. Of this organization, your present Secretary, was Secretary. It existed until the close of the war and was instrumental in doing much good.

At the Stated Meeting January 22, 1862 the death of Bro. Harman Yerkes was announced and heavy clouds of grief again hung over our works; his loss to the Lodge was as great as that of a father taken from a young and tender family, we had been so accustomed to see his familiar face, to go to him for advice, and to lean upon him for support. He was always zealous in watching the interests of the Lodge, its welfare and its high standing, as one jealous of its faithful standard work, and of the firmest attachment to the regulations of the Grand Lodge.

In 1861 and 1862 our National troubles affected every branch of society and the clouds of gloom were so black that business was disrupted and families even torn apart. It was natural that work in the Lodges would be restricted, Melita suffered with the rest but when the currency became inflated there was a general rush towards the Masonic Fraternity. This was followed by an increase in the fee for initiation in April 1864 to fifty dollars. In the following April a motion to further increase the fee to seventy five dollars was rejected, but in November a motion to increase to eighty dollars was adopted and was continued till 1870 when it was fixed at seventy-five dollars and so remains. In December 1865 the same night that Bro. Charles E. Meyer was elected W. M. I relinquished the secretaryship to accept that of Junior Warden and was succeeded by Bro. Samuel J. Creswell, Jr., who served for the three years I was acting as Junior Warden, as Senior Warden and Worshipful Master, when he retired and I again assumed the old position.

In May 1866, the question of erecting a new building for the Masonic Fraternity was broached and this Lodge instructed its representatives in the Grand Lodge to vote in its favor. The result was the purchase of the lot at Broad and Filbert and the preliminary steps towards erecting the present Masonic Temple. In June 1867 a Masonic loan, bearing seven and three tenths per cent. interest, was authorized and Melita Lodge at once invested \$2,600 in it.

In December 1867 another sorrow fell upon the Lodge, in the death of its Tyler, Bro. Wm. B. Schnider, a name dear in its Masonic associations, a memory yet cherished in thousands of Masonic hearts.

In June 1868 the corner-stone of our Masonic Temple was laid, with the co-operation of the Craft, and Melita was present.

In August 1871 a Masonic Home was projected but a financial crisis in business circles hindered its progress and the movement was forgotten. In 1872 the requirements of the Grand Lodge were such that a great increase was made in the

annual dues from Subordinate Lodges and this was followed by an increase in the annual dues of Melita to \$7.20 per year, and Life Membership from \$50 to \$75.

The new Masonic Temple was dedicated September 26th, 1873. Bro. Samuel M. Clement being Worshipful Master, James I. Wright, Senior Warden, and Jacob K. Thompson, Junior Warden. The Lodge participated in the procession, marshalled by Bro. Henry L. Sinexon, with 130 members. The first meeting was held in the new Temple October 22, 1873, Egyptian Hall being selected by a committee. At the Annual Election, December 1874, the financial embarrassment of the Treasurer made it necessary to elect another member to that office, when the present incumbent, Bro. Wm. D. Gardner, was elected.

In 1875, the Grand Lodge reduced the rate of interest on its bonds from 7.3 per cent. to 6 per cent., and this was again reduced to 5 per cent. in 1880.

January 1880, the Lodge celebrated its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary by ceremonies in the Lodge room, consisting of addresses with music, and to the pleasure and satisfaction of a large number of members and visiting Brethren.

In the latter part of this year it was ordered by the Lodge that slight refreshments be served at each meeting, and excluding malt or spirituous liquors. This custom has been kept up and is still maintained.

In January 1882, the dues were reduced from sixty to fifty cents per month.

In June 1882, the Grand Lodge celebrated the Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary of the introduction of Freemasonry in the State. Melita Lodge participated in the parade on this anniversary, with one hundred and fifty members, marshalled by Brother Past Master Frank Mills. In its report, the Committee says: "No Lodge in the parade was the recipient of more commendation for the gentlemanly bearing of its members, and but few exceeded Melita in number in line."

In 1883, the project of a Masonic Home was broached, and Melita appointed representatives to confer. The matter was fixed upon a substantial basis, and this Lodge is one of its members.

Since we have been meeting in the New Temple, our monthly sessions have been well attended, and though from the depression of the times, the number of candidates presenting themselves has greatly fallen off, affecting all Lodges more or less, we have had no just cause of complaint. We have harmony in our midst, have managed to pay our engagements promptly, and better than all to have an open hand for Charity. Upon this point we are safely entrenched, and our record will stand comparison with any Lodge, either in this or any other jurisdiction. No worthy applicant was ever turned away with the chilling words, "we have nothing to give."

Since our organization, there have been received 481 members; of these 75 have died, 37 resigned, 117 suspended, and 3 expelled, leaving on our roll, December 1885, 249 members.

The investments of the Lodge amount to \$8,200, which would have been increased to at least \$10,000, had it not been for that pecuniary embarrassment of our Treasurer, to which I have alluded.

Of our thirty-one Past Masters, eight have died and two have been suspended for non-payment of dues.

Such, my Brethren, is the record of thirty years. What the next will bring forth, who can tell? In the course of Nature, it is hardly probable that even a score of those here to-night will be present at our Semi-Centennial. Mother earth must claim most of us, and over the graves of many the finger of forgetfulness will point to neglected headstones.

These are hard thoughts, perhaps, to allude to at this time, but they should serve only to teach us to bow to the inevitable, and so frame our conduct as to be ready for the Great Architect when He sends His summons; to so work here that pros-

perity may spread her wings over our beloved Lodge, and when, twenty years hence, another will fill my place in Melita, he can speak in sincere and praiseworthy tones of us who have done our best to make a bright record for the future.

Music by the Orchestra.

All the Brethren then united in singing the following anthem:

With one consent let all the earth
To God their cheerful voices raise;
Glad homage pay with awful mirth,
And sing before Him songs of praise.

O, enter then, His temple gate,
Thence to His courts devoutly press
And still your grateful hymns repeat,
And still His name with praises bless.

The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren repaired to the Banquet Hall.



OFFICERS 1886.

FRANK M. DEALY,
Worshipful Master.

JOHN A. DUNCAN,
Senior Warden.

EDWARD E. JOACHIM,
Junior Warden.

WILLIAM D. GARDNER,
Treasurer.

DENNIS F. DEALY,
Secretary.

PAST MASTERS FROM ORGANIZATION.

HARMAN YERKES, . . . 1855	GEO. W. SCOTT, . . . 1870
WM. E. HARPUR, . . . 1856	H. R. LAWRENCE, . . . 1871
CHARLES GILPIN, . . . 1857	ROBT. H. PATTISON, . . 1872
WILLIAM ELLIOTT, . . . 1858	SAMUEL M. CLEMENT, . . 1873
JOHN M. COLEMAN, . . . 1859	JAMES I. WRIGHT, . . . 1874
HENRY L. SINEXON, . . . 1860	JACOB K. THOMPSON, . . 1875
BENJ. C. BROOKER, . . . 1861	JAS. M. STEWART, . . . 1876
JOHN J. FOSTER, . . . 1862	JOHN DOLMAN, . . . 1877
L. R. FLETCHER, . . . 1863	JOHN H. DYE, . . . 1878
HENRY C. BATON, . . . 1864	GILBERT CARNS, . . . 1879
CHARLES E. MEYER, . . . 1865	WM. EISEMAN, . . . 1880
ABSALOM TAYLOR, . . . 1866	JOSEPH WELCH, . . . 1881
DENNIS F. DEALY, . . . 1867	THOS. A. REDDING, . . . 1882
ROBERT B. SALTER, . . . 1868	CHARLES M. BETTS, . . . 1883
FRANK MILLS, . . . 1869	BENJAMIN HAYLLAR, . . 1884
WILLIAM R. HORTZ, 1885.	

